



Travis County Historical Commission

The regular meeting of the Travis County Historical Commission was held on Wednesday, May 9, 2012, at 5:30 p.m. in the Commissioners' Courtroom of the Granger Building, Austin, Texas. Chairman Barry Hutcheson called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. and a quorum was declared.

Attendance: Members present were: May Schmidt, Marty Moulthrop, David White, Margie Alford, Adrienne Isom, Rosemary Morrow, Nancy Hamilton, Patti Hansen, Nora Jackson, Bill Beare, Barry Hutcheson, and Bob Ward, Absent: Vonnys Rice-Gardner, Margarine Beaman, Bob Perkins, Sarah Harriman, and Carolyn Jones.

Guest Speakers: Barry introduced Prof. Michael Holleran from UT, along with graduate students Josh Conrad, Jenni Minner and Andrea Roberts, who presented an overview of the Austin Historical Survey Wiki Project. (Find it at beta.austinhistoricalsurvey.org or on the University's website.) This project will have a public launch at the end of May. They have used a variety of neighborhood surveys to compile the database of properties, mainly east of I-35 at this point, but including other areas in the near future. This is an open-source project and viewers with information about any properties are welcome to submit information for consideration. The team welcomes data from new surveys as they become available. The program's UT grants end in August, after which it will be handed over to the City. Prof. Holleran noted that we are the only city known to have such a historical survey database. Members were shown examples of individual properties on the database and how to browse for information.

Another guest was David Peyton, who reported that he is researching a Civil War-era military camp, Camp Terry, which was apparently located in the Hornsby Bend area near the mouth of Onion Creek. He was encouraged to compile his research into a narrative for a possible marker.

The third guest was Isaac Kremer, who is the new Preservation Program Manager for the Heritage Society of Austin. He introduced himself and said he hopes to work with the Commission to encourage preservation efforts in the city and county.

Minutes: There was a correction to the minutes of April 11: Under Announcements, the second paragraph should be changed to read: "Bob Perkins noted that the information in "The Defender" regarding Menchaca Road is **incorrect**. It was **also** misspelled in the first edition of The Handbook of Texas (1952) and has been spelled incorrectly as Manchaca ever since."

The minutes were approved as corrected on a motion by May and seconded by Nancy.

Report from the Chair: Barry reported that, due to a scheduling conflict for the Commissioners' Courtroom, the June meeting will have to be postponed to June 20, the third Wednesday.

Treasurer's Report: Nancy reported no changes in our County budget. She noted that the check from the estate of Jeanette Flachmeier has been deposited in our regular bank account. Barry said he will contact Flachmeier's daughter or someone from the Austin Ethnic History Association about the essay contest being held on the collegiate level. The check will be of great help in covering the expenses of the annual competition.

Research Committee: May will be attending a marker seminar in Corpus Christi this summer. Also, she has heard from Bob Brinkman, THC marker chair, that the proponents of a marker honoring Joseph Bonnell are again approaching the THC to replace the current marker for George Bonnell. Brinkman has suggested various compromises, but the group is unwilling to agree.

Barry reported that the marker for the Confederate funds buildings is delayed, as the State agency in charge of the Supreme Court Building (one of those built with Confederate funds) will not agree to have a marker related to the Confederacy. Any new marker or monument placed on the Capitol grounds will have to go through the Legislature for approval.

The 2010 marker for the H&TC and I&GN railroad depots, which is to be placed near the street corner at Congress and 3rd Street downtown, is on hold due to delays in the City's 3rd Street construction schedule.

Projects Committee:

TCHC History: no report

By-Laws Revisions: Barry has completed them and will send a finished version to the members.

TCHC Website: Patti noted that the 3 marker dedications from 2011 were submitted, but have not yet been posted. Cecile Bogan, the website manager, recently retired, which could explain the delay.

Essay Contest: no report.

African American Schools Project: no report

Markers Committee: David reported that the Maxey Cemetery sponsors have possibly had a private dedication for their marker. They did not take him up on his offer to assist them.

Public Relations Committee: Margie will try to pin down a date in June for the award ceremony for the Camp Mabry restoration project. It was suggested that our June meeting might be held at Camp Mabry in conjunction with the award presentation. Regarding the donation by Mr. Calvo of "The Defender", the Commission will create a certificate of appreciation for presentation to him, possibly at the next meeting.

CLG Committee: Bob reported that he is getting the budget together for the Ransom Williams Farmstead Survey. Funds are coming from a CLG grant, County monies, and a \$1,000 donation from the Travis County Archeological Society. Rosemary recently interviewed Richard and Victoria Daywood for the Webberville Survey and will get a transcription to Bob soon. She noted that the Daywoods mentioned an old Masonic Lodge in Webberville; they have some

research on it but cannot afford to sponsor a marker. She suggested that the Commission might help fund a marker for it, once they have submitted a proposed narrative.

Announcements: The Heritage Society of Austin is sponsoring a Guitar Salon (a classical guitar concert) at the McClendon-Price House in the Judges Hill neighborhood on May 19. More information is available on their website.

Thursday, June 21: The Milam CHC is sponsoring a meeting for area CHCs in Rockdale and Amy Hammons, Outreach Coordinator from THC, will speak. There will be opportunities to share experiences, resources and projects with other CHCs. Several members expressed interest in attending.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marty Moulthrop
Recording Secretary

Travis County Historical Commission
May 12, 2012 Treasurer's Report

Wells Fargo Bank

Balance May 12, 2012 is \$5045.84

Travis County 2012 account totals \$1942, distributed as follows:

1-1700-639-30-13 (Communications and equipment)

May Balance \$345

1-1700-639-30-99 (Other equipment and supplies) unchanged

May Balance \$57

1-1700-639-60-23 (Postal / Freight Out)

May Balance \$0

1-1700-639-60-99 (Other purchased Services)

May Balance \$0

1-1700-639-65-03 (Travel, meals and lodging)

May Balance \$100

1-1700-639-65-04 (Training and seminars)

May Balance \$200

[1-1700-639-90-01 (Co. Contribution to Grants)

May Balance \$0]

1-1700-639-75-08 (Markers)

May Balance \$1240.00

Nancy Hamilton
Treasurer